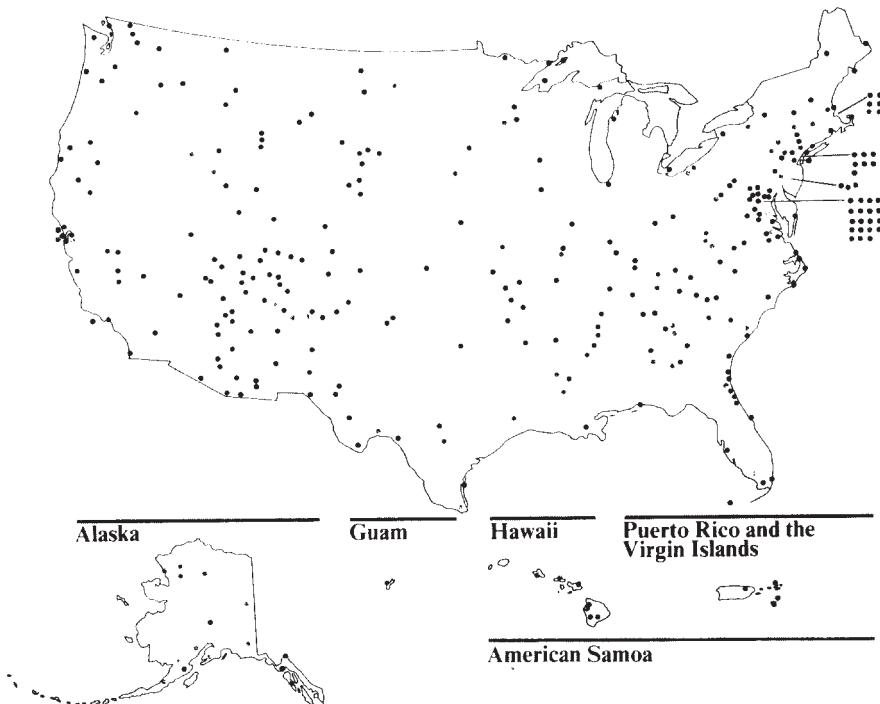


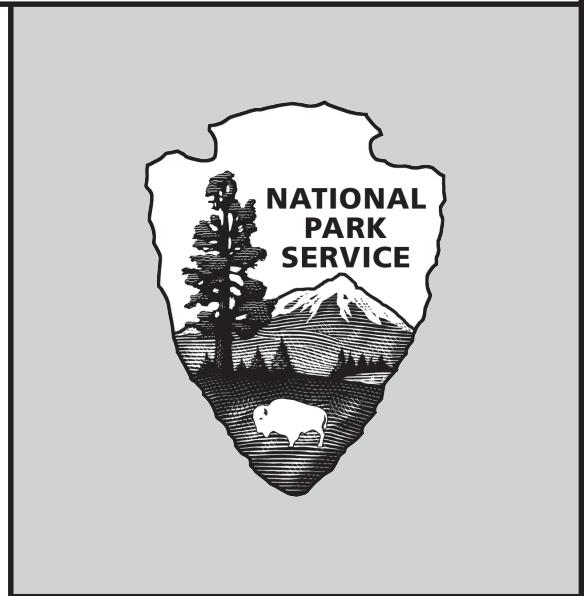
The National Park Service is “the largest university in the world, with 367 branch campuses.”

Robin Winks
Yale Historian, 1992

As of 2002, the number of National Park units extended to 385, all of which are here for you.



MAP OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM



Any questions or comments on this Teacher Activity Guide are welcome. Contact the Director of Education at:

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
11 North Fourth Street
St. Louis, MO 63102
(314) 655-1600

Produced by the Division of Museum Services and Interpretation: 1996



Dear Teacher,

Thank you for your valuable suggestions. You requested activities specific to each program topic that can be used before and after your museum visit. We listened and have designed this Teacher Activity Guide (TAG) especially for you. It is an investigative, hands-on approach to history.

The activities are based on curriculum guidelines for the states of Missouri and Illinois; they integrate cooperative learning, conflict resolution, and are relevant to real world experiences. In addition, suggested activities extend across the curriculum, providing an interdisciplinary approach, thereby enhancing the learning process.

We are also excited to introduce you to the National Park Service through an integrated theme concept. In addition to our basic program format, sections on career education and enrichment activities provide a multifaceted guide that can be used for a variety of student levels and subject areas.

We hope you find this guide “user-friendly” and look forward to hearing from you again. We appreciate your feedback and ask that you complete the enclosed Program Evaluation. If you have any questions or need further information, please call us at (314) 655-1700.

Sincerely,

Margaret G. O'Dell
Superintendent

"USER FRIENDLY" FORMAT

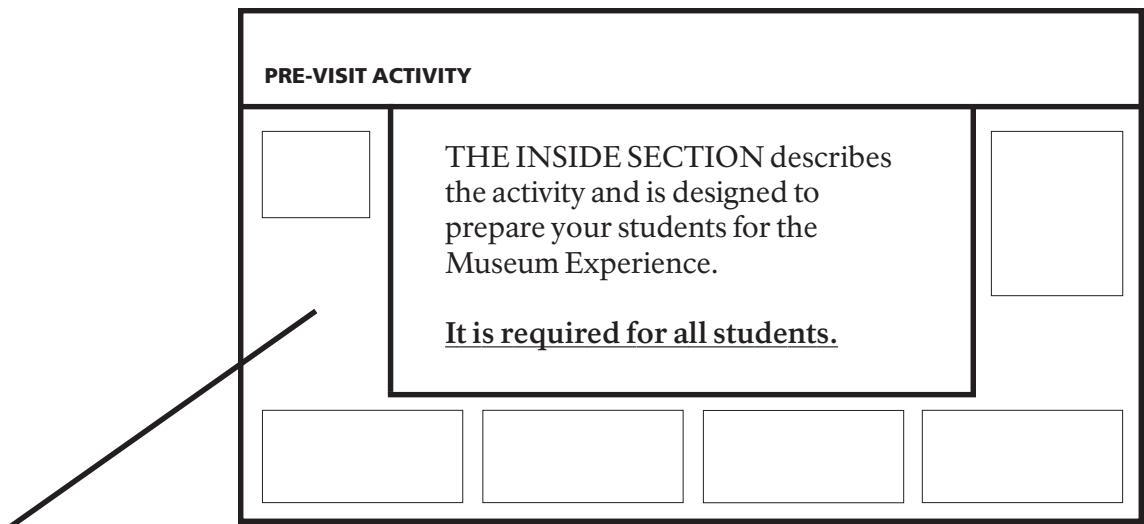
The activities in the TAG follow a simple format.

- Three PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES prepare your students before the MUSEUM EXPERIENCE. We suggest you use all three activities in sequence as access strategies. Depending on the performance level of your students, however, you may wish to move ahead to the REQUIRED activity.
- The MUSEUM EXPERIENCE briefly summarizes the program in which your students will participate at the Museum of Westward Expansion or Old Courthouse.
- Three POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES complement each of the three PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES and are designed for you to use after the MUSEUM EXPERIENCE. They are designed in sequence, yet also provide the flexibility to accommodate the specific needs of your students.



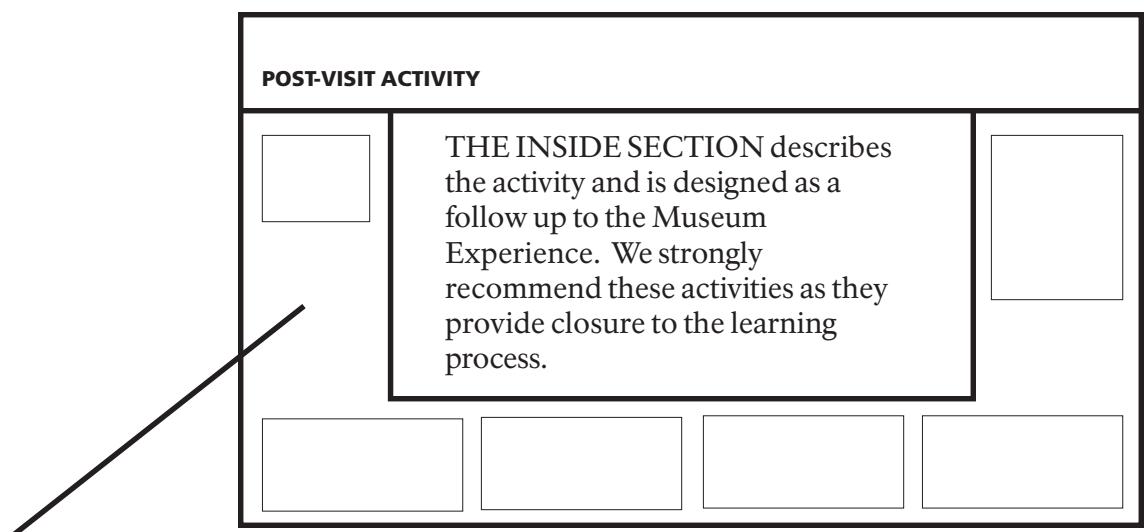
Each activity is designed in a wrap-around format to provide flexibility in your lessons and provide enrichment for a variety of student abilities.

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY



THE WRAP-AROUND MARGIN conveys a relevant real world connection to the activity. Exploring a National Park Service career and related site provides an enrichment opportunity that models career choices and encourages productive citizenship. This section is optional; however, it can serve as a significant reinforcer of generalization skills.

POST-VISIT ACTIVITY



THE WRAP-AROUND MARGIN enhances the carry-over of real world connections by extending the lesson across the curriculum into Language Arts, Math, Science, Art and Music. This section is suggested and can be used at your discretion.



INTRODUCTION

The historic Old Courthouse, located in downtown St. Louis, Missouri, is a great example of nineteenth century public architecture. It was the hub of activity when St. Louis was the nation's "Gateway to the West." Completed in 1862, after twenty-three years of construction, the county courthouse of St. Louis, in its Greek Revival style, was the gleaming jewel in the city's center. The dome on the courthouse was the first wrought and cast iron dome completed in the United States. A list of men who passed through the corridors of the Old Courthouse reads like a directory of the old west. Men such as Ulysses S. Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman, John Charles Fremont, and Thomas Hart Benton frequently spoke in the lavishly decorated courthouse rotunda.

The Old Courthouse was also the site of the first two Dred Scott trials, the beginning of one of the most important cases in United States history. The case later reached the United States Supreme Court and its outcome divided an already polarized country on the eve of the Civil War.

The second most important case heard in the Old Courthouse was the Virginia Minor trial. As part of the national struggle for women's suffrage, Virginia Minor sued for the right to vote, based on the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. The Supreme Court denied any guarantee under federal law for a citizen's right to vote when overruled by a state law. This action caused lasting damage to the women's suffrage movement and also African American voting rights in the south.

As a resource on the history of St. Louis and its influence, the Old Courthouse embodies the spirit, conflicts, and public architecture of its day.

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